

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This response is timely filed as it is accompanied by an appropriate Petition for Extension of Time for Filing of Response under Rule 1.136(a) and the associated fee. In particular, this response is timely filed as it is filed with a one-month from the date of the above-identified Advisory Action and is filed together with a Petition for a one-month Extension of Time.

No additional claim fee is believed due as a result of this Amendment because neither the total number of pending claims nor the number of pending independent claims is believed to exceed the total number and the number of independent claims, respectively, for which fees have previously been paid. If, however, it is determined that such a fee is properly due as a result of this communication, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of such fees or credit any overpayment, associated with this communication, to Deposit Account 19-3550.

Amendment to the Claims

By the above, claims 1-9, 11-13, 15-17, 29-37 and 39 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 10, 14 and 38 remain in the application. Claims 10, 14 and 38 were each previously rewritten in independent form. As noted in the Advisory Action, claims 10, 14 and 38 stand as allowed.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

1. **Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 12, 13, 15, 29, 30, 32, 33 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,973,325 to Sherrod et al. (hereinafter "Sherrod").**

25 These claim rejections are moot in view of the above-cancellation of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 12, 13, 15, 29, 30, 32, 33 and 36.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

2. **Claims 3, 6, 7, 9, 11, 16, 17, 31, 34, 35, 37 and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sherrod.**

30 These claim rejections are moot in view of the above-cancellation of claims 3, 6, 7, 9, 11, 16, 17, 31, 34, 35, 37 and 39.

Conclusion

The above response is intended to be fully and properly responsive to the requirements contained in the Action and to place all pending claims in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,



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